



UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/4418  
6 August 1960  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

---

LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1960 TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE USSR TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE USSR REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE CONGO

No. 335

I send you herewith the text of the statement by the Government of the  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics regarding the situation in the Congo, dated  
6 August 1960.

I request that this statement be circulated as a document of the Security  
Council.

(Signed) P. MOROZOV  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of the USSR to the United Nations

Mr. Pierre Millet,  
Acting President of the Security Council,  
United Nations,  
New York, N.Y.

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF  
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS IN CONNEXION WITH  
THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Soviet Government is compelled to note that the decisions of the United Nations Security Council adopted on 13 and 22 July 1960, which called for the withdrawal of the Belgian forces from the territory of the Republic of the Congo and for measures of effective assistance to the Congolese Government in the safeguarding of the Republic's territorial inviolability and integrity as a State, are not being carried out. The Belgian ruling circles, with the support of their allies in the aggressive North Atlantic bloc (NATO), are in effect disregarding the Security Council's decisions and thus defying the United Nations and all peace-loving countries.

The Belgian troops are continuing their illegal occupation of Congolese towns and inhabited localities, and in particular of the Province of Katanga where, in conditions of occupation and a state of emergency, intrigues aimed at severing Katanga from the Republic of the Congo are being pursued.

In several official statements the Congolese Government has furnished factual evidence of the outrages and atrocities committed by the Belgian troops against the peaceful inhabitants of the land who are defending the independence, unity and honour of their native country. Steps are also still being taken to disorganize the country's economic life.

Acting in this way, the Government of Belgium takes its cue entirely from the great Belgian and, above all, United States monopolies which are striving to lay their hands on the wealth of the Republic of the Congo and, particularly, of its treasure-house - Katanga - and to deprive the Congolese people of the national freedom and independence which they have won and of the property which is lawfully theirs.

The behaviour of the Command, appointed on United Nations behalf, of the forces sent by certain States to the Republic of the Congo in conformity with the Security Council's decision gives rise to serious concern. Instead of helping the legitimate Government of the Republic of the Congo and of taking with it concerted measures to put an end to aggression, the United Nations forces are very often employed on tasks outside their competence.

/...

They are being sent by the aforesaid Command to the provinces and towns where a struggle is going on against the Belgian aggressors and which are under the control of the legitimate Congolese Government. There is information to the effect that, instead of ensuring the earliest possible withdrawal of the Belgian interventionist forces from the territory of the Republic of the Congo, the United Nations forces, on orders from their Command, are disarming the Congolese national armed forces and are even coming into armed collision with them.

Despite the request of the Congolese Government that the United Nations forces in the Congo should consist of units from neutral and, above all, African States, the course is being followed of reinforcing the European contingent by the direct inclusion in it of troops of some of Belgium's NATO allies.

Feverish consultations are under way between the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and West Germany. What are they consulting on? The behaviour of States must today be consistent with the Security Council's decisions.

In view of the fact that these countries are the direct allies of Belgium in NATO and that the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France hold specific views on the aggressive actions of Belgium in the Republic of the Congo - which they in effect justify and defend - such consultations can only arouse profound distrust among all those who are endeavouring to bring about the end of imperialist intervention in the Congo.

Certain quarters in the West are trying to scare their people by claiming that the normalization of the situation in the Congo, and Soviet assistance - including the dispatch of specialists to that country - may place the whole of Central Africa under "Soviet influence". Indicative in this respect is the statement issued on 2 August by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The colonialists - and not only those directly responsible for the aggression against the Congo - are well aware that they are deceiving the people when they try to scare them by references to some danger, allegedly emanating from the USSR, in connexion with the situation in Africa and, specifically, the events in the Congo.

/...

But those who bear the responsibility for the aggression against the Congo are not mistaken if by "Soviet influence" they mean the further growth among the African nations of Soviet prestige and the influence of the USSR's peace-loving policy of respecting and defending their legitimate national interests. The prestige of the Soviet Union and of its policy continues to grow, and the Soviet people, as well as all the true friends of peace, can only take pride in that fact and express profound gratification at it.

There also exists a tendency to distort the meaning of the Security Council's decisions and to interpret them to the effect that the Belgian troops should remain in the Republic of the Congo almost as part of the United Nations Force. It is, however, clear from the Security Council's decisions that all Belgian troops, without any exception, must leave the territory of the independent Republic of the Congo.

The Soviet Government deems it its duty to state that the situation which has emerged in the Republic of the Congo is altogether intolerable and merely serves to undermine the prestige of the United Nations, which had decided that an end should be put to the aggression launched against that country.

The Soviet Government regards the effected "token" withdrawal of an insignificant portion of the interventionist forces as a manoeuvre calculated to soothe and deceive world public opinion.

Taking this into account, the Government of the USSR insists on the need for strict and effective measures to ensure the immediate enforcement of the Security Council's decisions. The Soviet Government proposes that the following steps be taken:

1. All the Belgian troops should be removed from the territory of the Republic of the Congo within the shortest space of time, by recourse to whatever method of action proves necessary.
2. In the event of continued failure, by the present Command of the forces sent by certain States to the Republic of the Congo to assist the Congolese Government, to comply with the Security Council's decisions which oblige that Command to act solely in agreement with the Congolese Government and to lend it the necessary military aid, it should be replaced by a new Command which will discharge the duties entrusted to it by virtue of the Security Council's decisions honestly and steadfastly.

/...

3. Resolute and effective action should be taken without delay to put an end to the occupation of Katanga province, which is an inseparable part of the Republic of the Congo. Those persons in Katanga who, at the bidding of foreign usurpers and in defiance of the laws of the Republic of the Congo, are committing acts directed against the freedom, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Congo, should be arrested and handed over to the Government of the Republic of the Congo.

4. Should the troops, of any country, sent into the Congo in conformity with the Security Council's decisions prove unable, for any particular reason, to ensure the effective expulsion of the interventionist troops from the territory of the independent Congolese State, troops from States which will be prepared to take part in carrying out this just action should be sent to the Republic of the Congo.

-----

